

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a bore that has axially aligned inlet and outlet ports and having a seat disposed adjacent said outlet port;

(B) a plunger disposed in said valve body between said inlet port and said
5 outlet port, wherein said plunger has an upstream end and a downstream, free end, and wherein said plunger is moveable axially within said bore, in a direction parallel to fluid flow, from a valve-open position to a valve-closed position; and

(C) a valve seal mounted on said plunger, wherein said seal seals against said seat when said plunger is in said valve-closed position and is spaced from said seat when
10 said plunger is in said valve-open position, and wherein at least a majority of said plunger is configured to be immersed in fluid in said bore when said plunger is in said valve closed position

2. The faucet as recited in claim 1, further comprising a flow-modifying tip disposed on said downstream end of said plunger, said tip extending at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position.

3. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is integral with said plunger.

4. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip has a larger diameter at its upstream end and a smaller diameter at its downstream end.
5. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially conical.
6. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially cylindrical.
7. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip has a flange at said upstream and is conical at said downstream end.
8. The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially bulbous.
9. The faucet as recited in claim 1, wherein said plunger is at least essentially entirely immersed in fluid during fluid dispensation and during periods of non-use.
- 5 10. The faucet as recited in claim 1, further comprising a handle having a pivotal lever which terminates within said plunger, said lever being configured to drive said plunger to move axially within said bore upon pivotal movement of said lever.
11. The faucet as recited in claim 10, wherein said faucet is configured to dispense a liquid, and wherein said plunger is fluted to permit an exterior surface of said plunger to be washed with liquid flowing over said plunger.

12. A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a fluid source connection portion and an integral downward turning spigot connection portion;

(B) a horizontally-oriented bore within said body, wherein an inlet port is
5 formed from an upstream end of said bore and an outlet port is formed from a downstream end of said bore, and wherein said inlet port and said outlet port are axially aligned with one another;

(C) a plunger disposed within said valve body between said inlet and outlet ports, said plunger having an upstream end and a downstream end, wherein said plunger
10 is moveable axially within said bore, in a direction parallel to fluid flow, from a valve-open position to a valve-closed position, and wherein at least a majority of said plunger is configured to be immersed in fluid in said bore when said plunger is in said valve closed position;

(D) a flow modifying tip that is disposed on said downstream end of said
15 plunger that extends at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position;

(E) a valve seal disposed on said plunger in the vicinity of the downstream end thereof; and

(F) a valve seat between said inlet and outlet ports, wherein said valve seal
20 seals against said seat when said plunger is in said valve-closed position and is spaced from said seat when said plunger is in said valve-open position.

13. A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a fluid source connection portion and an integral downward turning spigot connection portion; and

5 (B) a horizontally-oriented bore within said body, wherein an inlet port is formed from an upstream end of said bore and an outlet port is formed from a downstream end of said bore, and wherein said inlet port and said outlet port are axially aligned with one another.

14. The faucet as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

A) a plunger disposed within said valve body between said inlet and outlet ports, said plunger having an upstream end and a downstream end and moveable axially within said bore from a valve-closed position to a valve-open position;

5 (B) a valve seal disposed on said downstream end of said plunger; and

(C) a valve seat adjacent to said outlet port.

15. The faucet as recited in claim 14, further comprising a flow-modifying tip disposed on said downstream end of said plunger, said tip extending at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position.

16. The faucet as recited in claim 14, further comprising a handle having a pivotal lever which terminates within said plunger, said lever being configured to drive said plunger to move axially within said bore upon pivotal movement of said lever.

17. The faucet as recited in claim 16, wherein said faucet is configured to dispense a liquid, and wherein said plunger is fluted to permit an exterior surface of said plunger to be washed with liquid flowing over said plunger.